

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) FOR:
THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED MISSION ACTIVITIES AT
CAMP BULLIS TRAINING SITE, TX

AGENCY:

United States Army, Fort Sam Houston Military Reservation and Camp Bullis Training Site (San Antonio, Texas).

SUMMARY:

The U.S. Army has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze existing and proposed changes to mission activities at Camp Bullis. Based on the following summary of effects (and as discussed in the accompanying EA), the Commander has determined that the preferred means of accomplishing the proposed action (Alternative B) is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

INTRODUCTION:

This document prepared in accordance with 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule (29 March 2002)*. The regulations at 32 CFR §651 are the specific instructions adopted by the Army to implement Section 102 (2) of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Army is directed to develop its instructions by the President's Council on Environmental Quality; their regulations are published at 40 CFR §1500-1508. The EA evaluated potential impacts from the Proposed Action and a No-Action alternative. Cumulative impacts from the other actions occurring and the Proposed Action were also evaluated.

BACKGROUND:

Camp Bullis is located in Bexar and Comal counties, Texas and is a sub-installation of Fort Sam Houston located in San Antonio, Texas. It encompasses 27,987 acres approximately 18 miles northwest of Fort Sam Houston. The installation runs approximately 10 miles from north to south and 4 miles from east to west. The surrounding area has been primarily rural but has become increasingly urbanized through residential development as the suburbs of San Antonio have radiated outward and extended closer to Camp Bullis.

The mission of Camp Bullis is to provide target ranges, training areas, airspace, facilities, outdoor recreation programs, and necessary installation support to all of its customers. Camp Bullis provides target ranges and field training areas for the Army, the U.S. Department of the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the armed forces reserve units in the San Antonio area, as well as serving as an exercise site for many military units from outside the region. Camp Bullis serves primarily as the field-training environment for the Academy of Health Science and Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute, a part of the Army Medical Department Center and School headquartered at Fort Sam Houston. Camp Bullis is also home to the regional Security Police Ground Defense School and Southwest Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center activities.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to increase the utilization of the ranges, maneuver areas, and training areas at Camp Bullis from approximately 750,000 man-days per year (Fiscal Year 2004) to a projected level of 1 million man-days per year. The purpose of the proposed action is to continue using Camp Bullis as the preeminent field training venue for Department of Defense personnel. The need for the proposed action results from increased operations resulting from the Global War on Terrorism and realignment of missions, forces, and installations.

Specifically, Camp Bullis has received increased use over recent years from its tenants and other units needing to train at the unique environment provided by the post. During the past five years, the Army has significantly altered its training requirements to foster what it calls *Warrior Ethos* in which every soldier, whether a combat infantryman or a truck driver, is a soldier/warfighter first. To achieve this, the Army is directing increased marksmanship training and use of field training exercise for those military occupational specialties that previously were thought to be less likely to encounter hostile enemy action. Similarly, the Air Force has changed the training its supporting airmen receive, particularly its security police and medical specialists, again emphasizing survival under hostile fire. These shifts in doctrine and changed emphasis by its military users

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

- **No Action:** Under the No Action Alternative, present dining operations would continue in their current state for an indefinite period of time. Dining functions would not be consolidated and a facility sufficient to support field feedings and civilian staff would not be constructed. The dining facilities would continue to fail to support the demand at the installation and pose risks to health and safety. Although this would not meet the purpose and need for the action, it is carried forward in the analysis to establish baseline conditions as required by CEQ regulations.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS:

- **Discontinue Use of Camp Bullis.** This alternative was suggested by and discarded as it would not satisfy the purpose and need.
- **Use Space at Another Installation.** Other installations located within the San Antonio area (i.e., Brooks City Base, Lackland Air Force Base, and Randolph Air Force Base, and Fort Sam Houston) are 20 to 30 miles from Camp Bullis. None of the other installations have sufficient real estate to accommodate the varied training ranges and maneuver areas. Additionally, the abandonment of monies invested in building the ranges at Camp Bullis would represent a diversion of scarce resources during a time of increased military operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PREFERRED AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES:

- **Air Quality:** No significant long-term impacts to air quality would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives. Short-term temporary impacts to air quality would be expected during ongoing construction activities associated with Alternatives B; however, these impacts would cease once construction activities were concluded.

- **Cultural Resources:** Under Alternative B, there would be no impact to properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the proposed Camp Bullis Cantonment Historic District, nor to as-yet unidentified archeological resources. Adherence to the Camp Bullis Cultural Resources Management Plan and the Camp Bullis Training Regulations would minimize any potential impacts.
- **Hazardous Materials and Substances:** No significant impacts would result from implementing Alternatives B construction and demolition activities, as well as ongoing range operations would be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- **Social or Economic Resources (Including Environmental Justice):** No significant impacts would result from implementing Alternative B. Camp Bullis' permanent party population is not expected to increase as a result of the proposed action.
- **Biological Resources:** No significant long-term impacts to biological resources would result from implementing Alternative B. Temporary disturbance to local wildlife during training, construction and demolition activities may occur. No impact is expected since activities would continue to be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and Army regulations, including adherence to the Camp Bullis Endangered Species Management Plan.
- **Earth Resources:** Minor impacts to earth resources would be expected as increase use of training facilities may create additional impervious surfaces from training operations. No significant effects to geologic resources or karst features is anticipated.
- **Airspace Management and Use:** No significant effect on airspace management or use would occur as a result of increased utilization of Camp Bullis training facilities and ranges. Existing airspace classifications would remain as is and no new training airspace (special use airspace) would be required.
- **Water Resources:** Under proposed action or alternatives, no adverse effects to water resources are expected with implementation of best management practices. Compliance with existing stormwater plans and hazardous material plans would reduce any potential impacts.
- **Human Health and Safety:** Implementation of Alternative B would not have a significant effect on overall risk exposure. An increased operations tempo and increased training load at Camp Bullis would expose greater numbers of Soldiers and Airmen to slightly more risk than would occur otherwise, in order to simulate more realistic training.
- **Noise:** No significant long-term impact from noise would result from implementing the proposed action. Short-term temporary impacts from noise associated with heavy machinery and increased traffic volume would be expected during construction activities associated with Alternatives B; however, these impacts would cease once construction activities concluded. A slight increase to the predicted noise exposure areas would be expected from increased use of weapons qualification ranges, explosives simulators, demolition charges, and similar munitions would be expected. However, adherence to

existing occupational health and safety regulations would minimize the impact to users of the facilities and the facilities' locations are compatible with other land uses.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:

An EA and draft FNSI are available for public review and comment at the following locations: Public Affairs Office, Building 124, 1212 Stanley Road, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234, Fort Sam Houston Library, Building 1222, 2601 Harney, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234, San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205.

All interested agencies, groups, and individuals are invited to submit written comments on the EA and FNSI to the address listed below within 30 days of the date of publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the San Antonio Express News. Please send any comments to Camp Bullis Training Site (Attn: Mr. Peter Pagoulatos), RR 2, Building 5000, San Antonio, TX 78257-5036.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, I conclude that no significant environmental impacts would occur from the implementation of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B). Accordingly, the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process are fulfilled and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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DATE